

Atty. Dkt. No. 026304-0208

REMARKSStatus of Claims:

Claims 1-3, and 5-23 remain for examination.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 16-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Louis et al (US6674425B1) in view of Mack et al (US2002/0054115A1).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

As to the rejected claims, claims 1, 16 and 21 are independent. Claim 1 recites:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic apparatus, comprising:

a housing which contains an electronic component therein, and has an outside wall which has an exterior surface exposed outward of said housing and an interior surface exposed inward of the housing, the housing having an operation area in the exterior surface;

a pointing device disposed entirely inside the housing and having a flat input surface secured with an adhesive to the interior surface of the outside wall adjacent the operation area so that no portion of the flat input surface is exposed as an outside wall of said housing, the outside wall being larger than the flat input surface, the flat input surface receiving input operations through the operation area; and

a colored sticker stuck to the operation area.

Thus underlined portions of claim 1, *inter alia*, serve to distinguish applicant's claim from the applied prior art and in particular the applied Louis patent. The cited references ~~simply do not disclose the above limitations.~~

As to independent claim 1, the examiner, citing Louis, has identified a bezel 160 as a housing recited in claim 1. However, there is no mention in Louis that the bezel 160 in FIG.

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11 contains an electronic component therein. And furthermore, a pointing device is not disposed inside of the bezel 160. Hence, the bezel 160 may not be considered a "housing" within the meaning of applicant's claims.

However, even if the bezel 160 can be considered a housing (which applicant disputes), it is clear that the pointing device of Louis is not disposed entirely inside of the housing as recited in applicant's independent claims. Indeed, the position sensitive area 154 of Louis extends across almost the entirety of the upper surface of input system 150. Only a small portion of position sensitive area 154 is positioned under the plastic body 152. Moreover, applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that "no portion of the flat input surface is exposed as an outside wall of said housing."

Mack does not supply the missing elements not found in Louis. It is thus submitted that the PTO has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103, and thus applicants claims are patentable over the prior art.

The examiner collects independently different embodiments described in FIG. 1 and FIG. 11 of Louis in an attempt to read all elements of the invention of claim 1. FIG. 1 shows an embodiment of a digital processing apparatus 12, which is a notebook style computer, with a position sensitive input surface 16, while FIGs 10 and 11 show a table input system 150 which incorporates a unitary molded plastic body 152 that adheres to a position sensitive input device 154. This, contrary to the examiner's assertion, Fig. 11 is not an embodiment of Figs. 1-2. However, the instant amendments to applicant's independent claims serve to readily distinguish applicant's claims from the prior art.

With respect to the rejected claims 16 and 21, since claims 16 and 21 include similar limitations supporting at least the above described remarks regarding claim 1, claims 16 and 21 are also be patentable over the prior arts.

Applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least for the same
reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 16 and 21.

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Conclusions:

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2006

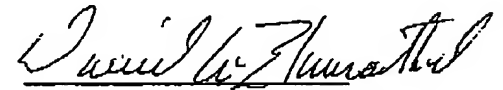
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